

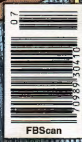


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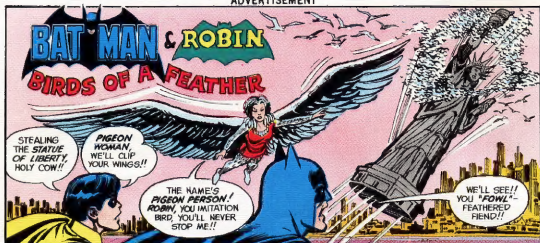
SUPERMAN'S ACTION COMICS

NO. 473
JULY
30410

YOU'RE ALL
STRONG AS
SUPERMAN!
HOLD HIM
WHILE I
DESTROY
HIM!



FBSscan



POCKETED AS A BABY FROM
IN THE EXPLODING PLANET
KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO
MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE
YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY
GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS!
IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS,
HE POSES AS MILD-
MANNED TV
NEWSMAN CLARK
KENT-- BUT
BATTLES EVIL
ALL OVER
EARTH--AND
BEYOND--
AS...

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

SUPERMAN

WE KNOW
YOU'RE OUT
THERE,
WATCHING
SUPERMAN--

--HELPLESSLY
WATCHING
US DEMOLISH
EVERY REMINDER
OF YOU LEFT IN
METROPOLIS!

AND THIS
IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING!

WAIT TILL YOU
SEE THE HAVOC
WE WREAK ON
THE REST OF YOUR
PITIFUL LITTLE
PLANET EARTH!

JAX-UR KRU-EL, GENERAL ZOD AND PROF. VAKOX-- THE
DEADLIEST OF MANY DEADLY CRIMINALS FROM SUPERMAN'S
HOMELAND PLANET KRYPTON--ALL OF THEM SENTENCED LONG AGO
TO THE TIMELESS LIMBO OF THE PHANTOM ZONE!
YET TODAY ALL OF THEM WANTONLY RAMPAGE THROUGH METROPOLIS
--WITH NO ONE ON EARTH TO STOP THEM--FOR EVEN SUPERMAN
HAS BECOME A VICTIM OF...

"THE GREAT PHANTOM PERIL!"

STORY: CARY BATES ART: CURT SWAN & TEX BLAISDELL
COLORING: JERRY SERPE

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., DC Comics Inc., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735.

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335 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 361-1400

ONLY YESTERDAY, THE **SUPERMAN** SYMBOLS WERE FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACES-- WHILE LIFE IN METROPOLIS WENT ON AS USUAL ...



... BUT EVEN THEN, SOME VERY UNUSUAL EVENTS HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE ...

I JUST CAN'T SWALLOW IT! I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D EVER HAPPEN -- LEAST OF ALL, THIS WAY!

AT THE HANDS OF A WOMAN, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?

NO OFFENSE, LOIS, BUT IT'S TRUE-- FEMALES ARE THE WEAKER SEX, ON EARTH AS WELL ON KRYPTON!

ALL RIGHT, BILL-- RUN THE TAPE!

I'M CUTTING SHORT THIS TEDIOUS DEBATE BETWEEN LANE AND LOMBARD!

AND AS THE SHARP WORDS OF PRESIDENT MORGAN EDGE OF GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS FOCUS ALL EYES TO THE VIEWING SCREEN ...



THERE-- THAT WAS THE FIRST BLOW THAT DISABLED HIM!

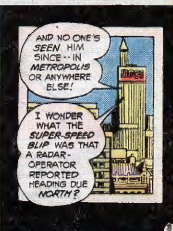
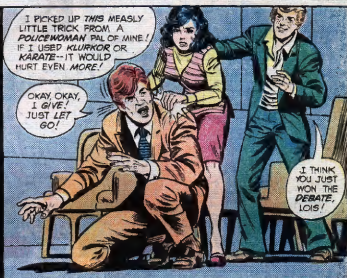
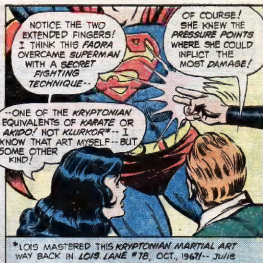
BUT HOW DID SHE DO IT? EVERYONE KNOWS SUPERMAN IS INVULNERABLE!



NOT WHEN IT COMES TO A PHANTOM ZONE CRIMINAL! ANYONE WHO ESCAPES TO EARTH BECOMES JUST AS SUPER AS SUPERMAN!

MAYBE SO, JIMMY-- BUT I STILL SAY A SUPERMAN IS STRONGER THAN A SUPERWOMAN!

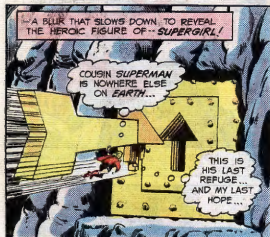
YOU'VE GOT A ONE-TRACK MIND, STEVE LOMBARD!





"NORTH! COULD IT HAVE BEEN SUPERMAN GOING INTO HIDING IN HIS ARCTIC FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...?"

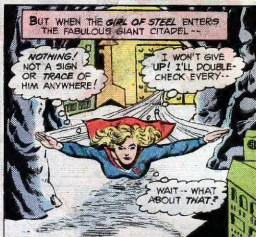
WELL, LET'S CHECK THAT OUT--AS WE FOLLOW A RED- AND-BLUE BLUR--



--A BLUR THAT SLOWS DOWN, TO REVEAL THE HEROIC FIGURE OF-- **SUPERGIRL!**

COUSIN SUPERMAN IS NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH...

THIS IS HIS LAST REFUGE... AND MY LAST HOPE...

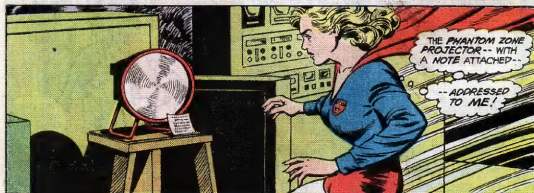


BUT WHEN THE GIRL OF STEEL ENTERS THE FABULOUS, GIANT CITADEL--

NOTHING! NOT A SIGN OR TRACE OF HIM ANYWHERE!

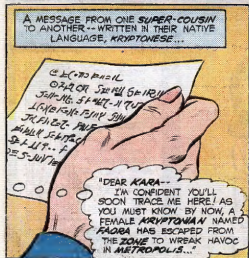
I WON'T GIVE UP! I'LL DOUBLE-CHECK EVERY--

WAIT--WHAT ABOUT THAT?



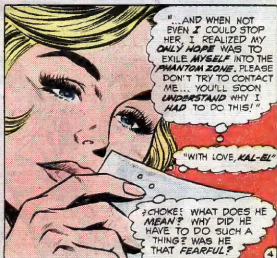
THE PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR-- WITH A NOTE ATTACHED--

--ADDRESSED TO ME!



A MESSAGE FROM ONE SUPER-COUSIN TO ANOTHER--WRITTEN IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE, KRYPTONESE...

"DEAR KARA-- I'M CONFIDENT YOU'LL SOON TRACE ME HERE! AS YOU MUST KNOW BY NOW, A FEMALE KRYPTONIAN NAMED FAORA HAS ESCAPED FROM THE ZONE TO WREAK HAVOC IN METROPOLIS..."



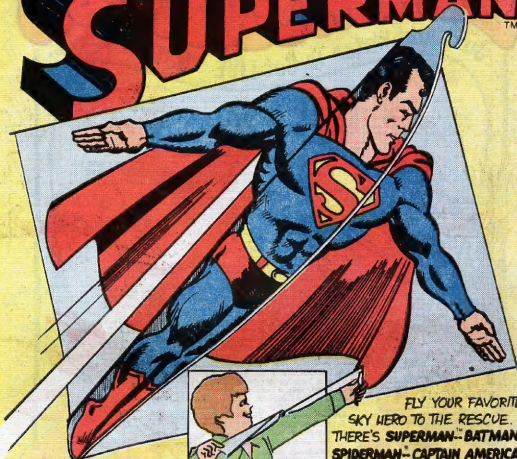
"...AND WHEN NOT EVEN I COULD STOP HER, I REALIZED MY ONLY HOPE WAS TO EXILE MYSELF INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE. PLEASE DON'T TRY TO CONTACT ME... YOU'LL SOON UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO DO THIS!"

"WITH LOVE, KAL-EL"

"CHOOEE! WHAT DOES HE MEAN? WHY DID HE HAVE TO DO SUCH A THING? WAS HE THAT FEARFUL?"

AT LAST YOU CAN FLY

SUPERMAN™



FLY YOUR FAVORITE
SKY HERO TO THE RESCUE.
THERE'S **SUPERMAN**--**BATMAN**--
SPIDERMAN--**CAPTAIN AMERICA**--
EACH WITH ITS OWN LAUNCHER!



YOU ZOOM THEM AS HIGH AS 35 FEET IN THE AIR.
THEIR CAPES OPEN AND THEY FLY LIKE NOTHING
YOU'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE--SWOOPING,
TURNING, LOOPING, DIVING!
AND THEY'RE **MARX TOYS**--
SO YOU KNOW THEY'RE FUN.



LOOK FOR SKY HEROES™ AT YOUR TOY STORE

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ENTER THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF **SUPER** **SEAMONKEYS®**

Just Add Water To Get LIVE "INSTANT PETS!"

You'll GASP WITH AMAZEMENT when you see the ACTUAL BIRTH of DOZENS of ADORABLE NEW SUPER SEAMONKEYS (Artemia)! Brought to life BEFORE YOUR EYES, they are guaranteed to GROW SO FAST, you actually SEE them getting bigger and BIGGER, day after fun-filled day! Over ONE MILLION people of ALL ages have ALREADY tested it... and to their delight, IT REALLY WORKED! We have even received thousands of letters of thanks and praise from delighted Sea Monkey owners for INVENTING them! Now, for the FIRST TIME, these amazing and frolicsome pets can be YOURS!

IN YOUR OWN HOME—A LIVE SEA-CIRCUS

Imagine the FUN you'll have when you OWN a tumbling, happy troupe of LIVE PERFORMING SEAMONKEYS! You can astonish your guests by making them appear to OBEY your EVERY COMMAND! We even show you how to make them look like they're dancing to REAL MUSIC, perform Loop-The Loops and OTHER "daredevil" stunts, take turns riding on each other's back like a rodeo cowboy on his bucking Bronco pony, follow a light beam like a school of friendly DOLPHINS—and much MORE! But that's not ALL! A fantastic NEW invention, U.S. Patent No. 3,899,167, enables Sea-Monkeys to ACTUALLY engage in thrilling GAMES*, races and sports—with YOU and your friends! NEVER BEFORE has there EVER BEEN GAMES THAT ARE SO EXCITING!

A FREE BONUS—IF YOU ACT NOW!

Your unborn Super Sea-Monkeys will arrive safe and unharmed—sealed in incredible "Time Capsule" EGGS that live for YEARS! Put them in ordinary tap water pre-treated with special Water Purifier that we give you, and SECONDS LATER the cutest pets you've ever seen will appear right before your eyes, and start to SWIM even though they're just BARNIES! Best of all, you receive BOTH SEXES so you can breed MORE Sea-Monkeys at any time, to give as gifts or even SELL if you wish! To order your Super Sea-Monkeys, send in the Coupon with only \$1.25 plus 50¢ for postage and handling. Satisfaction GUARANTEED or your money refunded. And as a BONUS for acting right NOW, you will earn OVEN \$2.00 in FREE supplies! With EACH order you ALSO get FREE, a NEW, magnificent, FULLY-ILLUSTRATED BOOK packed with Instructions, Tricks, Training, Breeding and The Amazing Life History of Super Sea-Monkeys, a GENEROUS supply of Super Sea-Monkey GROWTH FOOD, a twin-level, precision measuring and feeding instrument, a Sea-Monkey Life Insurance Policy, and our FAMOUS Sea-Monkey GROWTH GUARANTEE—in WRITING! Remember, Super Sea-Monkeys are ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED to HATCH and GROW SUPER-FAST or your MONEY-BACK!

NOTE: Sea-Monkeys are so EASY TO RAISE, even a 6 year old can grow them!

\$1.25
PLUS

Enclose Remittance Dept. 41G-2
100 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018

Please send _____ Super Sea-Monkey Kit(s) and my FREE water purifier (enclosed \$1.25 for each kit, plus the postage and handling, if not included, you GUARANTEE to receive my money!)

Your payment enclosed is _____ the USD's please!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

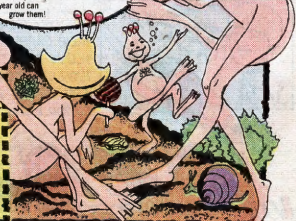
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Illustrations shown not intended to depict actual Artemia salina

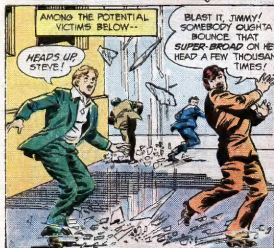
AND BACK IN THE UNGUARDED CITY...

BOOOOMMM!

HOW COULD
SUPERMAN
TURN HIS BACK
ON METROPOLIS
AND LEAVE US
AT THE MERCY
OF THAT
SUPER-MADWOMAN?

SHE'S OFF ON
ANOTHER RAMPAGE --
SONIC-BOOMING
ACROSS TOWN
AGAIN!

WATCH
OUT FOR
FALLING
GLASS!



AMONG THE POTENTIAL
VICTIMS BELOW--

HEADS UP,
STEVE!

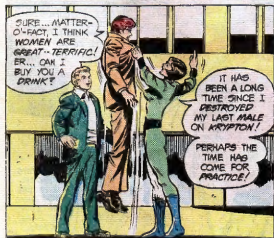
BLAST IT, JIMMY!
SOMEBODY OUGHTA
BOUNCE THAT
SUPER-BROAD ON HER
HEAD A FEW THOUSAND
TIMES!



I HEARD
THAT!

EARTHLING OR
KRYPTONIAN, YOU
ARROGANT MALES
ARE ALL ALIKE--
AND EQUALLY
INFERIOR!

ER...
HE WAS
JUST JOKING,
FAORA! HE
DIDN'T
MEAN IT!



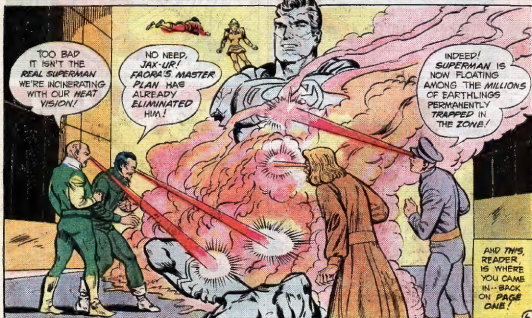
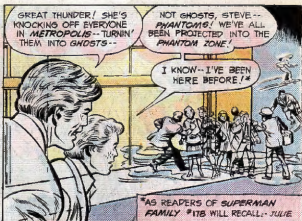
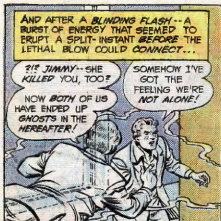
SURE... MATTER-
O-FACT, I THINK
WOMEN ARE
GREAT-- TERRIFIC!
ER... CAN I
BUY YOU A
DRINK?

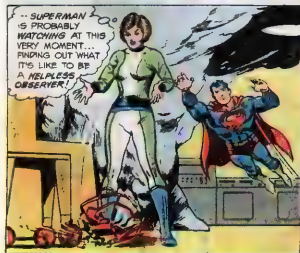
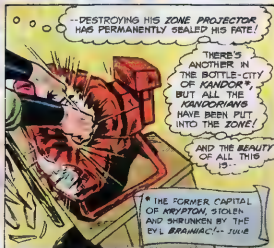
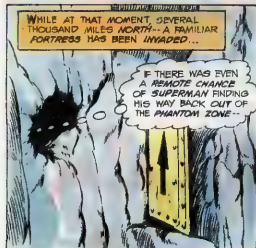
IT HAS
BEEN A LONG
TIME SINCE I
DESTROYED
MY LAST MALE
ON KRYPTON!
PERHAPS THE
TIME HAS
COME FOR
PRACTICE!

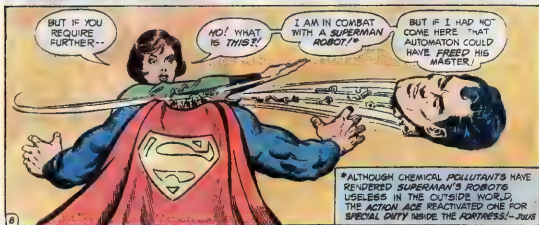
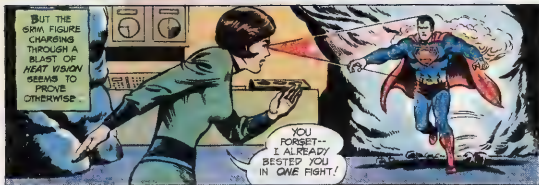


DON'T DO
IT, FAORA!
DON'T HIT
HIM!

TOO
LATE!







WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF.

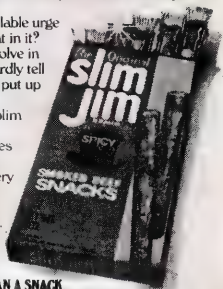
Every now and then, do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

Are you tired of sugar-sweet snacks that dissolve in your mouth, and crunchy snacks that you can hardly tell you ate, and all the other boring stuff you have to put up with, every day?

Well, take heart. And, while you're at it, take Slim Jim along in your pocket.

Slim Jim is a chewy, all-meat snack that comes in five very un-boring flavors. Mild, spicy, salami, bacon, and pizza. And you can find it at the grocery store. Or at a lot of the places where you've been getting those sissy snacks.

You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.



A LITTLE LESS THAN A MEAL. A LITTLE MORE THAN A SNACK.

**MAKE EXTRA CASH
NO REAL "SELLING"
JUST SHOW THIS SAMPLE
WE GIVE YOU FREE!**

**TAKE EASY FAST ORDERS FOR MUCH WANTED
PERSONALIZED METAL SOCIAL SECURITY PLATES**

If you want to make extra cash easy in spare time, we'll send you a complete compact money-making outfit which includes an actual sample engraved Plate, Carrying Case, Emergency Card and 8-Year Calendar, plus everything else you need to start taking orders and making money from the very day you receive it. This complete Outfit is yours **ABSOLUTELY FREE** and entirely without obligation. Just show it to everyone. They'll be amazed and delighted by the low price...only \$2.00 each...especially when they discover that they also get a smart Carrying Case, an Emergency Card, and an exclusive 8-Year Calendar...all **FREE!** You make \$1.00 profit on every order. Take as many as 15 or more orders in an hour — make \$15 or more in every spare hour that you show this sample. To get your money-making Outfit by return mail...entirely **FREE!**...just fill in and .

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Box 10480, Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

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Name(print) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



ARMY MEDALS. Be a major, colonel or other officer! Polished metal replicas of official army insignias. Dress up your coat or shirt with these official looking gold or silver medals with pin on back.

75¢ No. 999 5 for \$1.00



TRICK COIN. Is the champion of an "easy" trick. Tricks are named for reading and there is also secretly gimmicked for selecting any card in a deck. Looks like regular trick. You can even use it as a hand game of cards. Amaze your friends. Full set of instructions plus suggestions for over 20 tricks.

50¢ No. 107 \$1.50



101 MAGIC TRICKS. Any can do them. No skill or sleight-of-hand required! Do amazing tricks with cards, coins, paper, pandits, cigarettes, handkerchiefs, etc. One trick alone is worth the price of the entire book.

50¢ No. 170 75¢



ATOMIC JOY BUZZER. Use it to make noise and watch your friends go wild. Place on a chair and there will be the clicking when they sit on it.

50¢ No. 114 \$1.00



SECRET AGENT SPY CAMERA. Easily concealed in the palm of your hand. Takes secret or surprise pictures as well as regular candid shots. Solid all metal construction. Precision ground lenses. Speed 1/25th of a second and time exposure. Takes 10 pictures.

50¢ No. 100 Camera only

50¢ No. 110 Pigeon Case

50¢ No. 112 Hi-Speed Film

50¢ No. 113 50 shots \$1.50



HOT PEPPER BUBBLES. Flavored with delicious mint but hidden within the center is RED HOT BUBBLES. The more the chew the hotter it gets. Not harmful but a good way to remember. Package of 5 sticks.

50¢ No. 179 2 pgs. \$1.50



HYPO-DOIN. Free with 25 LESSONS IN HYPNOTISM. Do you realize the power that hypnosis will give you? With the magic power of hypnosis you can hypnotize all a glances. Make people obey your commands, strengthen your memory, develop a strong personality, overcome bad habits. 25 lessons covers this and much more. Order now and receive our patented HYPNO-DOIN Free.

50¢ No. 100 \$1.50



1001 FREE THINGS. Get FREE gifts, novelties, books, product samples, toys, maps, etc., from companies, federal agencies, associations, etc. that are anxious to send you FREE 55 sample books with names and addresses to write to for your 1001 FREE things.

50¢ No. 746 50¢ each



"MONEY MAREK" is a sensational "insert" a blank piece of paper into the machine, turn the knob... and, from the top comes a PRESTO! COPIES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a one dollar bill and it comes out a \$5 bill or \$10.00. No skill required. Lots of fun and mystery.

50¢ No. 338 ONLY \$1.00



EXPLODING MOUNTAIN PEN. Looks like a regular fountain pen. But when they start to write... BOOM! It goes off with a bang like a hand grenade! Can be used once or over and over.

50¢ No. 119 \$1.50 Each

50¢ No. 120 1001

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50¢ No. 140 1001

50¢ No. 141 1001

50¢ No. 142 1001

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50¢ No. 144 1001

50¢ No. 145 1001



BREEZING POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, and watch the fun begin! Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. Great fun. More than a barrel full of merriment.

50¢ No. 101 20¢ pgs. \$1.50



SECRET - SAFE. Looks like an attractively bound book in simulated leather, but open reveals a combination lock safe to camouflage your valuable papers, money, etc.

50¢ No. 512 \$1.50



MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR. Adds, subtracts, and multiplies to 9,999. No knowledge required to solve math problems. Gives homework answers. Fast, easy to operate and accurate. 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" x 4". Fits any where.

50¢ No. 187 \$1.45



AERIAL CAP BOMB. Built like a real bomb! Grows a loud explosion when dropped or thrown on a hard surface. All metal with large metal. Complete with 27 gamma rounds.

50¢ No. 732 \$1.00

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50¢ No. 780 \$1.00



X-RAY GOGS. Slip on a pair of these X-ray goggles. This hilarious optical illusion allows you to see seemingly and the bones of your hands. Lots of fun at parties. Your friends will think you see right through them.

50¢ No. 115 \$1.45



SNOWTOWN TABLETS. Place a miniature snow storm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them melt for the snow shower.

50¢ No. 100 20¢ pgs. \$1.50



MYSCOPE. No larger than a fountain pen, spots objects blocks away. Excellent for all sports, deer-eying, baseball, hiking. Power lenses optically ground to reproduce every detail. 8-power telescope also converts into a 35-power microscope.

50¢ No. 150 \$1.45



MAGIC COLOR CLOUDS. When you light one of these small, granules, huge, thick clouds of color, continue to pour out. Will amaze and thrill you and your friends. Can be used for magic tricks and signaling, etc.

50¢ No. 217 4 for \$1.00



MAGIC SOAP POWDER. Sprinkle a little of this brilliant, invisible magic powder on any soap. When anyone uses the soap their hands and face will turn bloody red. Have fun! Drives them crazy! Harmless.

50¢ No. 125 30¢ pgs. \$1.50



SURPRISE PACKAGE. Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you will receive but because you're willing to gamble, we promise you much more than your money's worth.

50¢ No. 516 75¢



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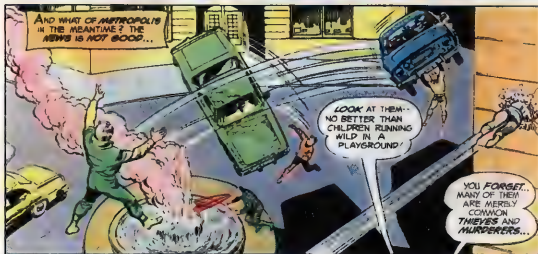
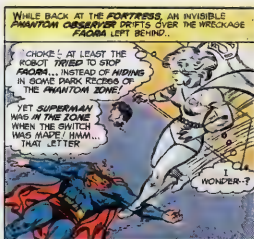
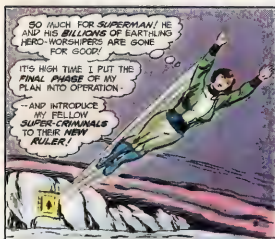
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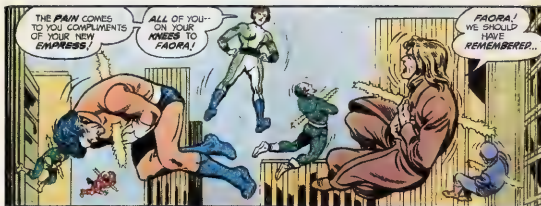
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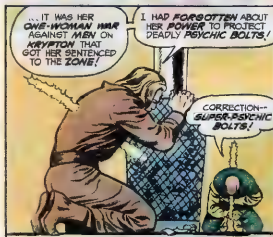




THE PAIN COMES
TO YOU COMPLIMENTS
OF YOUR NEW
EMPRESS!

ALL OF YOU--
ON YOUR
KNEES TO
FAORA!

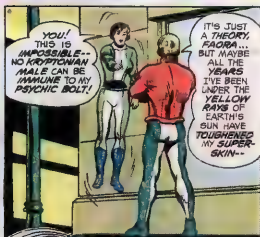
FAORA!
WE SHOULD
HAVE
REMEMBERED...



...IT WAS HER
ONE-WOMAN WAR
AGAINST MEN ON
KRYPTON THAT
GOT HER SENTENCED
TO THE ZONE!

I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT
HER POWER TO PROJECT
DEADLY PSYCHIC BOLTS!

CORRECTION--
SUPER-PSYCHIC
BOLTS!



YOU!
THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE--
NO KRYPTONIAN
MALE CAN BE
IMMUNE TO MY
PSYCHIC BOLT!

IT'S JUST A
THEORY, FAORA...
BUT MAYBE
ALL THE
YEARS I'VE BEEN
UNDER THE
YELLOW
RAYS OF
EARTH'S
SUN HAVE
TOUGHENED
MY SUPER-
SKIN--



--REINFORCING MY
INVULNERABILITY
ENOUGH TO RESIST
YOUR PSYCHIC POWER!

YOU
SPEAK
FOLLY,
MALE!

YOU
HAVE NOT
BEEN
UNDER THIS
YELLOW
SUN MORE
THAN AN
HOUR!
EVEN THE
KANDORIANS
HAVE AN
ARTIFICIAL
RED SUN!



JUST AN
HOUR--

--AND A
LIFETIME!

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KRYPTON!

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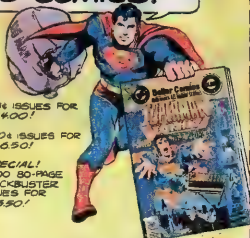
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April 24	vs. Dallas
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June 5	vs. Toronto
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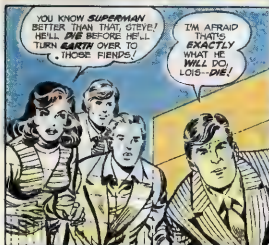
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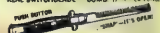
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"UNTIL HE FOUND WHAT HE WAS AFTER..."

GREAT GUARDIANS!
ANY IDEA
WHAT THAT
THING IS?

NONE, GL-- BUT THE
TECHNOLOGY LOOKS
SO ADVANCED--

--I HAVE A HUNCH IT'S
KRYPTONIAN-- MAYBE PUT
THERE BY FAKRA HERSELF!

"IT
DIDN'T
TAKE
US
LONG
TO
DEUCE
THE
PURPOSE
OF
SUCH A
MACHINE--"

"IT WAS THE DIMENSIONAL-PHASER THAT PUT US
IN THE PHANTOM ZONE AND THE SUPER-CRIMINALS
ON EARTH! SINCE WE ALL COMMUNICATE BY TELE-
PATHY HERE IN THE ZONE, A BOOST FROM MY POWER
RING ENABLED US TO READ THE MAN'S THOUGHTS..."

JUST REVERSING THE PHASER'S
POLARITY ISN'T ENOUGH! FAKRA
DESIGNED IT SO IT WOULD NOT
WORK ON HER! THAT MUST BE
CORRECTED--

--ALSO THE
KANDORIANS
MUST BE
RETURNED TO
THEIR CITY IN
THEIR PROPER
TINY SIZE! IF THEY
APPEARED FULL-
SIZED, THERE
WOULD BE
CERTAIN DANGERS--

THEN WE KNEW
THAT THE KRYPTONIAN
WAS SUPERMAN IN
DISGUISE--AND HE'S
ALREADY SET THE
WHEELS IN MOTION
FOR OUR RELEASE--

--AS SOON AS
THE DELAYED
ACTION OF THE
PHASER TAKES
EFFECT AND
THROWS THOSE
CRIMINALS BACK
IN THE ZONE!

BUT WILL
SUPERMAN
STILL BE
ALIVE TO SEE
IT HAPPEN?

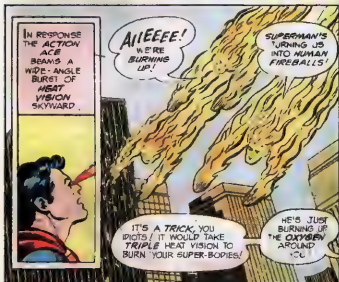
HOW MUCH LONGER
CAN HE ENDURE SUCH
A SUPER-BEATING?

HOW MUCH LONGER INDEED?

NOW--
GET HIM
WHILE HE'S
DOWN--

UUNG!

WE'RE
RIGHT
BEHIND
YOU, ZOD!
WE'LL
TAKE
HIM!



MEANWHILE, EARTHSIDE--THE TIDE OF THE BATTLE HAS SHIFTED FOR THE WORSE...

UHHH!
HE
STRUGGLES
LIKE A
WILD MAN,
JAX!

JUST
DON'T
LET GO!

IT'S HIGH TIME YOU
BUMBLING SUPER-
INCOMPETENTS
FINALLY OPERATED LIKE
A TEAM!



NOW, BEFORE YOU
DIE, SUPERMAN,
GRANT ME ONE
ANSWER--

WHAT TIPPED YOU OFF
ABOUT MY DIMENSIONAL-
PHASER AHEAD OF TIME
SO YOU COULD RUG UP THAT
DISGUISE OF YOURS?

WHY,
YOU DID,
FAORA!



THOSE PSYCHIC
POWERS OF YOURS,
PLUS YEARS OF
TELEPATHIC PALAVER
IN THE ZONE, UPPED
YOUR MENTAL ABILITIES
WITHOUT YOU KNOWING
IT!

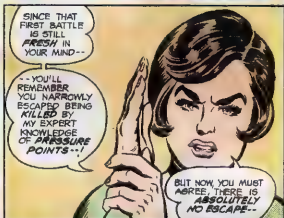
YOU WERE
TELEPATHICALLY
BROADCASTING
YOUR PLANS TO
ME ALL THROUGH
OUR FIRST
BATTLE!



SINCE THAT
FIRST BATTLE
IS STILL
FRESH IN
YOUR MIND--

-- YOU'LL
REMEMBER
YOU NARROWLY
ESCAPED BEING
KILLED BY
MY EXPERT
KNOWLEDGE OF
PRESSURE
POINTS--!

BUT NOW YOU MUST
AGREE, THERE IS
ABSOLUTELY
NO ESCAPE--



--FROM THE
DEVASTATING
FATAL BLOW
NO KRYPTONIAN
CAN SURVIVE!



DIE,
SUPERMAN--
DIE!

OH, JIMMY--
I CAN'T BEAR
TO LOOK!

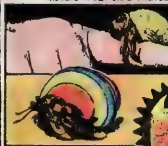


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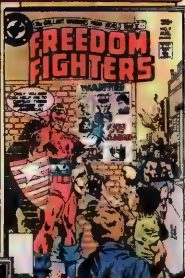
THE **SECRET** OF THE
UNIVERSE WITHIN
HIS GRASP!

CAN THE
NEW GODS
STOP HIM IN TIME ?



**THE RETURN OF
THE NEW GODS**
12 --

On Sale APRIL 21st



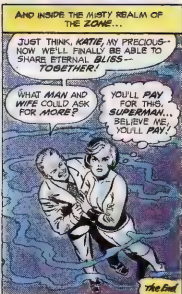
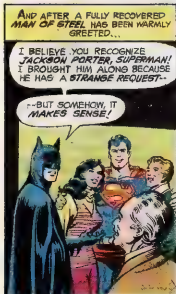
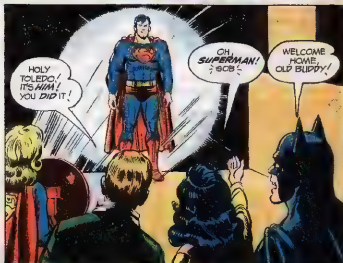
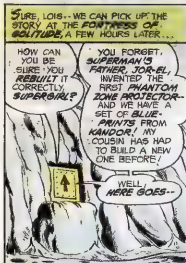
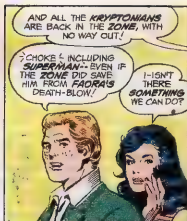
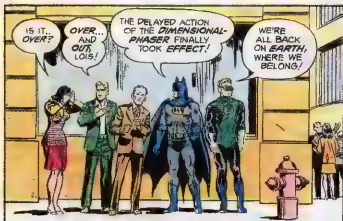
WILL THE
CRUSADERS
REPLACE
The
**FREEDOM
FIGHTERS?**

SHOULD THEY?

FIND OUT IN
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
9 --
On Sale APRIL 12th

COMING THIS MONTH FROM







Dear Editor:

Shocked!

I was positively shocked! A while back, I wrote you an extremely nasty letter condemning you for the removal of **The Atom** and **Green Arrow** from the back of **Action Comics**. I'd like to eat my words. Now that **Green Arrow** is being prominently featured in **Green Lantern/Green Arrow**, as well as **World's Finest**, that somewhat made amends for his previous demise. As for **The Atom**, it's probably only a matter of time before he'll return, possibly as a back-up in another magazine.

I was totally shocked to discover Bob Rozakis could write something other than crossword puzzles. Amazing! "Clark Kent's Lonely Christmas" (**Action** #469) was one of the few stories that came around this year that effected emotional response for me. I, for one, enjoy Christmas stories, as opposed to the violence that runs rampant 11 months a year. Bob has utilized the fact that Clark is a human being and is subject to his emotions, as all people are. I'm sure everyone who read this story could identify with the loneliness that was expressed.

The art was good and appropriate for the story. John Calnan has a talent for drawing the man on the street. Tex Blaisdell did an excellent job, one of his best.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate you, Julie, on a job well done.

Jim Hogan
14151 Mayfield
Detroit, Mich. 48205

(Considering all the things Bob has written—such as **Teen Titans** and **Batman Family**—we're shocked that you didn't know he could write a lot more than crossword! Actually, the response to his Christmas tale was fantastic. Maybe partly because the startling conclusion of the **Superman** story was still to come. Take the next letter—please!—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear E.:

Too much of a good thing, etc.

Cary Bates seems to have worked out a new way of writing **Superman** stories. First, the villain wins. Cliffhanger. Next issue, **Superman** wins, but the villain gets away. Cliffhanger. Next issue, the villain returns with a new weapon which clobbers **Superman**. Cliffhanger. **Superman** escapes and clobbers villain. Cliffhanger. Villain escapes from jail and retrieves weapon. . . .

This is not exactly the formula which produced "The Night **Superman** Was Buried in Boot Hill" (**Action** #469), but it's close enough. Here, we have the same gimmick used last issue, repeated with the punches altered for greater reader interest, but with a different outcome. Next issue, **Superman** will revive and battle **Terra-Man** live on TV, using the exact same gimmick. Perhaps **Terra-Man** will escape, thus stretching the story for

another issue. (Wrong! Bet you were really surprised when you saw the conclusion in #470—and it didn't fit the "formula"!—E.N.B.)

As for "Clark Kent's Lonely Christmas," it was a fine, if overly sentimental story, with a good premise. I'm glad you're starting to portray Steve Lombard and Morgan Edge as human beings. Besides that, what is Editor Julie Schwartz doing at the WGBS office party?

Adam Castro
59 Harlan Drive
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804

(Looks to me like he's waving at Bob and Laurie Rozakis. But don't ask me—I wasn't there. I was on monitor duty in the **Justice League** satellite!—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

This is a letter of comment on **Action** #469. The lead story, featuring **Terra-Man**, was an excellent tale by Mr. Bates. The idea of **Terra-Man** battling **Superman** as a part of "his" show is a unique idea that deserves applause. The art by Swan and Blaisdell was their usual work: excellent, as was the coloring. And the end has left me hanging until next issue.

However, my main comments on this issue are reserved for **The Private Life of Clark Kent**. The stories in this series are the most human and realistic in the **Superman** family when it comes to the emotional impact of a story. There was a warmth of emotion that flooded over me as I read this issue's story. I could feel Clark's loneliness. And when he played Santa to those kids, I felt their joy and happiness, and the inner glow that Clark felt at that moment. And when the story had ended, I cried. It was one of the most touching and warmly human tales I have read in any comic in a long time. And, Mr. Rozakis, just as I panned you for **Detective** #468, I must say thanks from the bottom of my heart for your beautiful Christmas story.

Lyle Watson
Box 13
Mauldin, S.C. 29662

(You know, if things keep up like this, Bob might have this lettercol framed. Didn't anyone have any criticism for that story?—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear Bob, John and Tex:

How could Clark be lonely on Christmas Eve? Or rather, how could **Superman** be lonely? He could spend it with Linda (**Supergirl**) Danvers. This is the trouble with DC nowadays: it always tends to forget **Supergirl**.

Andy Reed
Rt. 6
Box 383
Lebanon, Tenn. 37087

(I hope that has been reformed in recent months, with her many appearances. But as for her Christmas vacation, she spent it with her parents, in the bottle-city of Kandor. And being thoroughly **Kryptonian**, it has no Christmas celebration. But then, **Supergirl** spent her formative years in a **Kryptonian** atmosphere, while Clark spent his in Smallville—where Christmas became part of his life.—E. Nelson Bridwell)

MAKE WAY FOR
INTERGALACTIC
EXCITEMENT!

RETURN OF THE NEW GODS

ON SALE APRIL 21ST

"Remember the Five-Cent Phone Call?"

Lately, the staff around here has taken to calling my monthly letter *The Publishorial*. Or, much more often, *Your Publishorial*, as in "when are you finally going to have your publishorial finished so that all the books on the April schedule which are otherwise complete have a fighting chance of meeting their shipping dates?"

It is true that in an earlier column I admitted to being unduly tardy in delivering my publishorial into the clamoring hands of Jack's production room. However, you may recall that at that time I did not cop a plea.

Now, here it is, my fifth publishorial and I am late again. Only this time there is a reason, and actually an exceedingly important one that affects you directly. Let me try to explain.

Originally, I had wanted this column to burst with my enthusiasm for our new science-fiction line which opens April 21st with *The New Gods*, to be followed by *Mr. Miracle* in June, and then by David Michelinie's enthralling new creation, *Star Hunters*. I don't want to give this line short shrift, for all three of the titles are truly exceptional, both in concept and execution. However, a serious problem has cropped up, and I feel you should be apprised of it before anything else.

When Paul Levitz took over *The Comic Reader* in 1971, it had 500 subscribers. By the time he got out of the fanzine racket—two years later—*The Comic Reader's* circulation septupled (3,500 copies), picking up two "best fanzine" awards along the way.

Why would someone quit a publication at the height of its success? Because Paul Levitz was offered a job working in the comics industry, which beats just writing about it. Paul assumed the duties of an assistant editor: proofreading, steering plot conferences, editing scripts and the like. It wasn't until 1974 that Levitz was able to fulfill a life-time ambition—being a comic book writer.

"I was greatly inspired by the success of Jim Shooter, who at the time was writing *The Legion of Super-Heroes*. He had the impossible luck to be hired at 13," Levitz reported. Paul started out with a

Several months ago, I explained that everything in a comic book—from the ads to the letters page—is completed at least three months before the comic goes on sale. Therefore, I am writing this publishorial with the knowledge that certain things which are currently the subject of open discussion may or may not be fact come April. I can't give you any conclusion, only the ins and outs of our daily fervent debate.

We are talking about raising our price from thirty to thirty-five cents. We are not talking about if we should, but **when**. I wish that could sound less cold than it does, but you might remember how only several months ago I explained just why a price increase was sure to be inevitable. However, I confess—I never expected that we'd be discussing it so seriously so soon.

At the time of writing, it's January. To our dismay, the New Year brought us not just new but unexpectedly high prices from the printer. Thus, we are faced with a single question: how long can we hold the line at thirty cents: March? April? Anything beyond that seems untenable.

You're reading this in April. What happened? Did you pay thirty cents for this comic book or thirty-five? What a strange business we're in. It

would be nice to arrive at a package and a price that we could maintain despite the slings and arrows which have become standard operating procedure for our industry.

I guess in part, that's what *Dollar Comics* are all about. With a *Dollar Comic* you can count on getting four comics' worth of new material for four quarters for a long time to come.

And what about **New Gods**? It's terrific. Gerry Conway (writer) and Paul Levitz (editor) have added tight plotting and vivid story-telling to Jack Kirby's original vision. Don Newton's pencils are a joy. Infused with intelligence, dynamic and bold, they gleam from behind the authoritative yet faithful inks supplied by his friend, Dan Adkins.

One last thing. I imagine that many of you out there have a question or two or three or four that you'd like answered. Questions about comics, business, publishing; about management, present or long gone; about the staff; questions personal or impersonal, relevant or irrelevant, questions about life, DC, even me. Every once in a while, I'd like to turn over my publishorial to answering them. So drop us a line, when you've got the time.

Wishing all of you the very best.

Jenette

number of mystery stories, and moved on to *The Phantom Stranger*, *Stalker*, *Kamandi*, *Justice Inc.*, and *Karate Kid*. It was Paul's work on *Aquaman in Adventure Comics* that set the tone for the character's successful revival.

primary contact point for all freelance activity—seeing that material comes in on time, working with the writers and artists, and so on.

Levitz works three near-full time jobs for DC Comics. In his spare time—which is almost an office joke—

DC Profiles #13

PAUL LEVITZ

Last year, Levitz acquired four new assignments. He succeeded Shooter on *The Legion*, picked up *The Justice Society* series, and became the story editor of some nine titles. More importantly, Paul became DC's editorial co-ordinator.

Paul is a business major at New York University; he should be picking up his masters sometime in 1979.

Not bad for a twenty year-old. It will be interesting to see what Paul Levitz can do when he grows up.

—Mike Gold

Super

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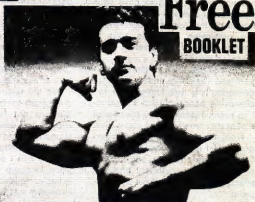
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"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock hard muscle. It's amazing. I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day." P. Williams

"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 6 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled. In sports I am a winner in everything I do." B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!" M. Robinson



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